

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 EUR-08 EB-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
IO-06 DHA-02 /056 W  
-----041362 270812Z /15

R 270650Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1350

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4, DIMPTD  
TAGS: SHUM SPOP PORG LA (UNHCR, WFP) SREF  
SUBJECT: LAO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REPORTED PLANNING TO ESTABLISH  
"NEW ECONOMIC ZONES"

REF: A VIENTIANE 0831, B VIENTIANE 0892

1. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE LAO SOURCE, THE MINISTRY OF  
INTERIOR HAS DRAFTED A PROGRAM TO RESETTLE 2,000 FAMI-  
LIES FROM THE VIENTIANE AREA TO "NEW ECONOMIC ZONES" IN  
VIENTIANE PROVINCE.

2. THE UNHCR HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE \$150,000 IN PARTIAL  
FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT. THE WFP HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY  
THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE LAND CLEARING  
EQUIPMENT FOR THE SITES BUT HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO  
THE REQUEST.

3. THE PLAN INITIALLY CALLS FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF  
912 LAO FAMILIES, 100 CHINESE FAMILIES AND 200 VIET-  
NAMESE FAMILIES AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:  
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- A) BAN NANGSA IN MUONG NASAYTHONG DISTRICT. A SITE OF  
2,200 HECTARES WILL BE PREPARED FOR APPROXIMATELY 300  
LAO FAMILIES AND 100 CHINESE FAMILIES.
- B) BAN SANG IN MUONG SAYTHANG DISTRICT. A SITE OF  
2,900 HECTARES WILL BE PREPARED FOR APPROXIMATELY 500  
FAMILIES.
- C) DONGPALUN IN DONGPALUN DISTRICT. A SITE OF 3,900

HECTARES WILL BE PREPARED FOR APPROXIMATELY 400 FAMILIES.

D) RESETTLEMENT SITES WILL ALSO BE PREPARED AT MA SONE IN MUONG SAYTHANG DISTRICT AND AT SALAKHAM (POSSIBLY BAN SALA KHAM IN EXTREME WESTERN VIENTIANE PROVINCE ON THE MEKONG).

4. COMMENT: THIS REPORT IS SIMILAR TO REPORT (REF A) THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WAS SEEKING WFP ASSISTANCE IN RELOCATION OF 7,500 VIENTIANE RESIDENTS TO AGRICULTURAL SITES FORTY TO SIXTY KILOMETERS FROM THE CITY. THE ORIGINAL PLAN APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN STALLED BY REFUSAL OF WFP REPRESENTATIVE TONY COMO DURING HIS VISIT TO LAOS IN JUNE TO AGREE TO THE PLAN (REF B). IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REMAINS ADAMANT IN ITS INTENTION AND MAY HAVE MET WITH INITIAL SUCCESS IN ITS SEARCH FOR FUNDS (PARA 2).

5. ARBITRARY RELOCATION OF URBAN FAMILIES TO REMOTE RURAL AREAS BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY ENCOURAGE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES LEAVING LAOS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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